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StarWarsInsider

"Hello there!"

—Obi-Wan Kenobi, *Star Wars: A New Hope*

Welcome to this special edition of *Star Wars Insider*, the official magazine of the *Star Wars* universe. In this sampler, you'll find some of the best interviews and features from recent editions of *Star Wars Insider* magazine.

Included on these pages are interviews with everybody's favorite protocol droid C-3PO, otherwise known as Anthony Daniels; the voice of Darth Maul, Peter Serafinowicz, tells us why he loves the *Star Wars* saga; and the guys behind *Robot Chicken* talk about the making of their hilarious *Star Wars* specials!

And that's just the tip of the iceberg! In recent times we've interviewed the cast and crew behind *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, including the show's Supervising Director Dave Filoni, Tom Kane (Yoda), Ashley Eckstein (Ahsoka Tano), and Matt Lanter (Anakin Skywalker).

If you're an old-school fan of the movies, we've spoken with makeup maestro Stuart Freeborn, producer Robert Watts, Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia), and Mark Hamill

(Luke Skywalker) about their experiences working on the saga.

Star Wars Insider will also keep you up to date on the latest news from the Expanded Universe with interviews with the writers of the books, comic books, and even the creators of the wide range of *Star Wars* merchandise.

With blockbusting video games, such as *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed II* and 2011's massively multiplayer online game, *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, plus the ongoing excitement of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, *Insider* will always be at the forefront of the very best parts of the *Star Wars* experience.

Please enjoy this special version of *Star Wars Insider*. We hope this is just the beginning of your *Insider* experience!

May the Force be with you,

Jonathan Wilkins, Editor

DOCKING BAY

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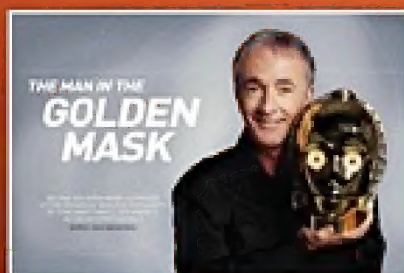
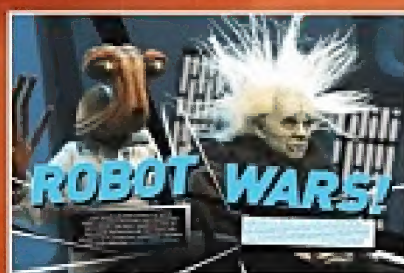
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STAR WARS

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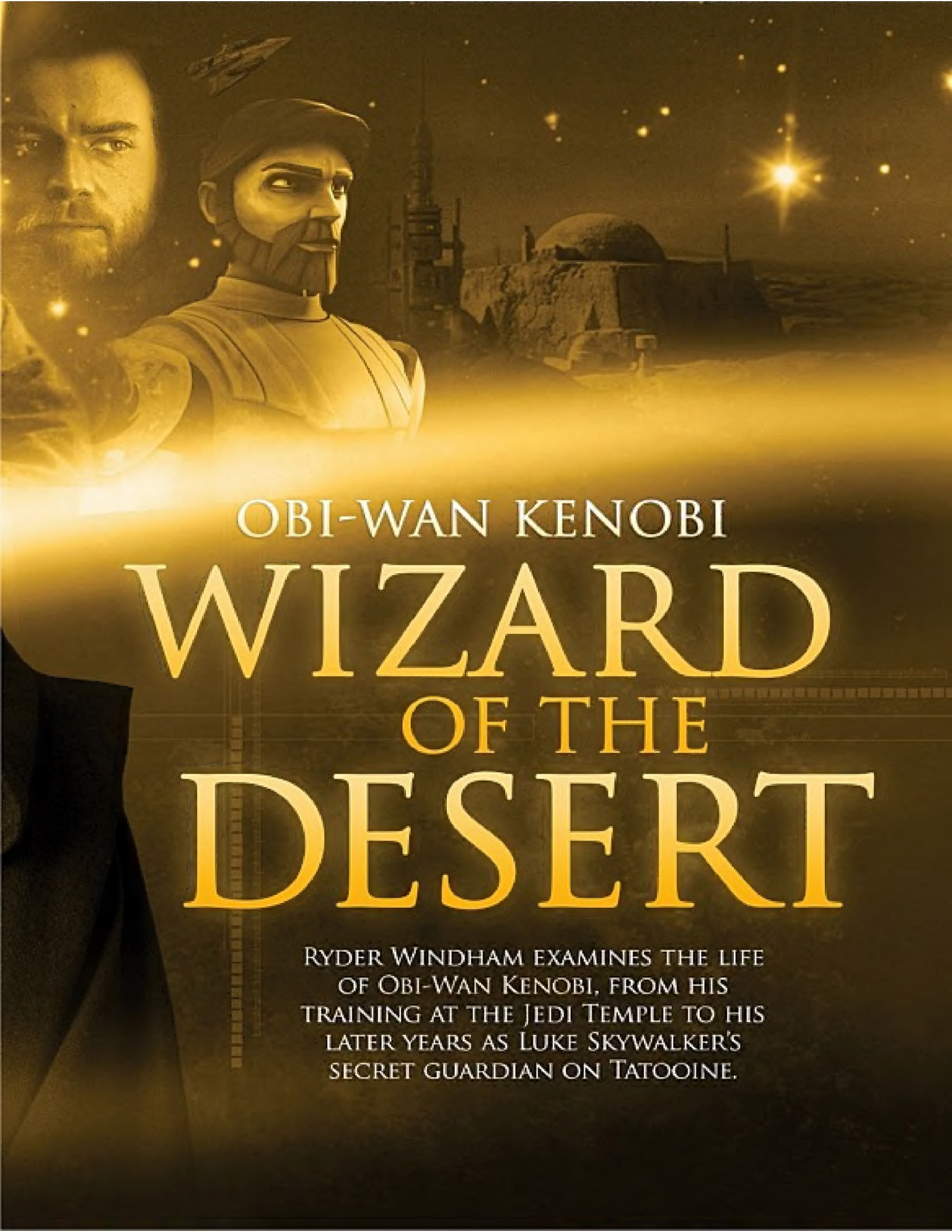
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A composite image featuring a close-up of Obi-Wan Kenobi's face on the left, a bust of him in the center, and a desert landscape with a dome and a starry sky in the background. The entire scene is bathed in a warm, golden light.

OBI-WAN KENOBI WIZARD OF THE DESERT

RYDER WINDHAM EXAMINES THE LIFE
OF OBI-WAN KENOBI, FROM HIS
TRAINING AT THE JEDI TEMPLE TO HIS
LATER YEARS AS LUKE SKYWALKER'S
SECRET GUARDIAN ON TATOOINE.



THE EARLY YEARS

Details about Obi-Wan Kenobi's origins remain vague, but like most Jedi of his time, he was an infant when he was taken from his family and conscripted into the Jedi Order, and spent his formative years at the Jedi Temple on Coruscant.

Tutored by Master Yoda and trained in lightsaber combat by Cin Drallig, Obi-Wan was considered a quick learner, skilled fighter, and dedicated pupil. However, he became increasingly anxious as his 13th birthday approached, for the Order maintained that younglings over the age of 13 years were too old to be trained to become Jedi Knights. He knew that if a Jedi did not select him as a Padawan learner, he would be assigned to the Jedi Agricultural Corps, and spend the rest of his days tending sick crops.

OBI-WAN KENOBI PROFILE

Homeworld: Unknown

Born: 57 BBY

Species: Human

Gender: Male

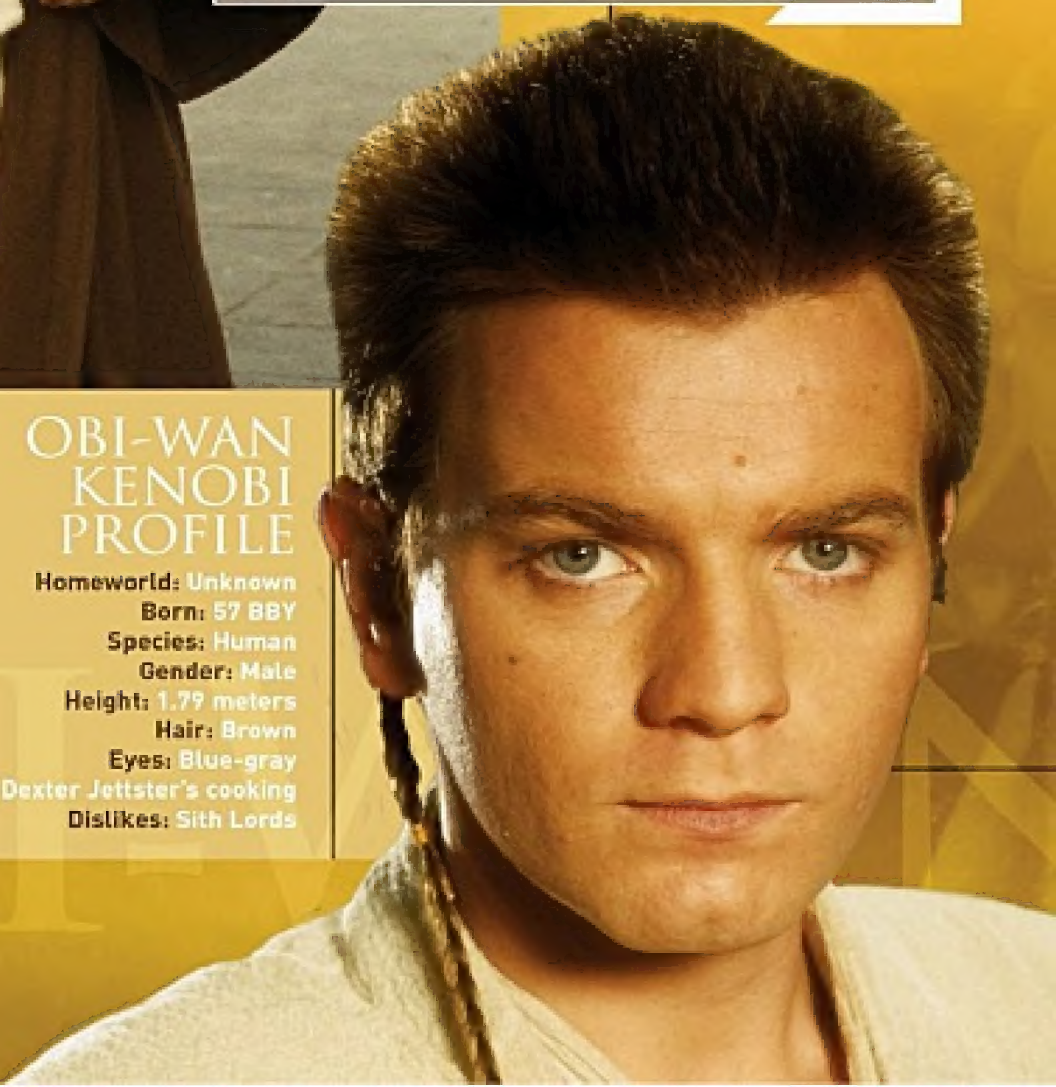
Height: 1.79 meters

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue-gray

Likes: Dexter Jettster's cooking

Dislikes: Sith Lords





OBI-WAN: "BUT MASTER YODA SAYS
I SHOULD BE MINDFUL OF THE FUTURE."
QUI-GON JINN: "BUT NOT AT THE
EXPENSE OF THE MOMENT."

EPISODE I - *THE PHANTOM MENACE*



APPRENTICE TO QUI-GON JINN

When Obi-Wan Kenobi learned that the Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn might take a new apprentice, he realized it was his last chance to become a Knight. However, Qui-Gon was doubtful of his own competence as a teacher because his previous apprentice, Xanatos, had failed to become a Jedi and turned to the dark side. Although Qui-Gon initially rejected Obi-Wan, the wise Master Yoda—who saw great potential in the pair—arranged for them to travel together on a mission to the planet Bandomeer in the Outer Rim. After unexpected developments led Obi-Wan to attempt to bring the renegade Xanatos to justice, Qui-Gon chose Obi-Wan as his Padawan.

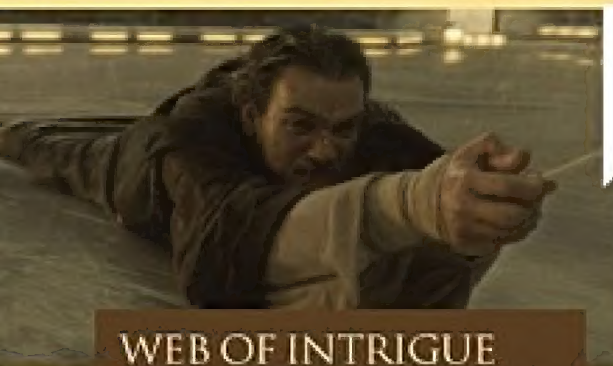
Obi-Wan went with Qui-Gon to the crystal caves of Ilum, where he constructed his own lightsaber. On one of their early missions, they journeyed to the mining world Ord Sigatt, where they befriended Dexter Jettster, a shady Besalisk who possessed an incredible wealth of knowledge and a genuine talent for cooking.

Although Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan worked well together, there were occasional conflicts. Qui-Gon frequently wished his apprentice were more patient and mindful of the moment, and Obi-Wan was baffled by his Master's penchant for befriendling pathetic life forms. ►



"MASTER, WHY DOES IT FEEL THAT WE'VE PICKED
UP ANOTHER USELESS LIFEFORM?"

OBI-WAN TO QUI-GON: EPISODE I - *THE PHANTOM MENACE*



WEB OF INTRIGUE

Ten years after Palpatine became Supreme Chancellor, Obi-Wan Kenobi's investigation of an attempted assassination led him to Kamino, a water world that had been erased from all records in the Jedi Archives. He soon learned that Jedi Master Sifo-Dyas—who'd been killed almost a decade earlier—had commissioned the Kaminoans to create a massive army of clone soldiers for the Republic, and that the Kaminoans had used the bounty hunter Jango Fett as the clones' genetic template.

Kenobi questioned Fett, who maintained that he'd never heard of Sifo-Dyas, but claimed a man named Tyrannus had recruited him for the cloning operation. Later, on the planet Geonosis, Kenobi confronted Count Dooku, a former Jedi Master who had abandoned the Jedi Order ten years earlier and become the leader of the Separatist movement, a growing collective of worlds that threatened to secede from the Republic. Dooku professed that he'd left the Order because the Jedi Council ignored his report that a Sith Lord named Darth Sidious had betrayed the Trade Federation and now held hundreds of Republic Senators under his influence.

Kenobi was certain the various ten-year-old events were somehow connected, but still didn't understand that all were part of a Sith scheme to conquer the galaxy.

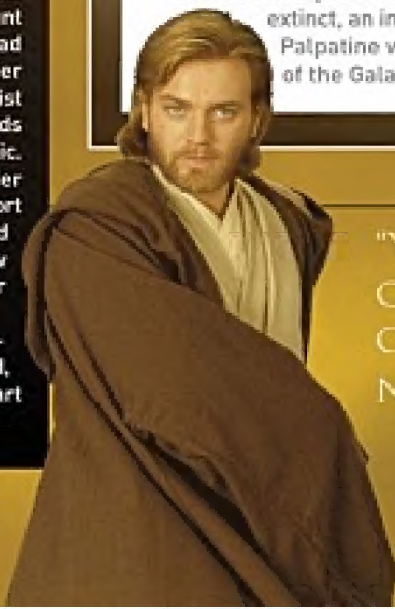
NEW FRIENDS, OLD FOES

Kenobi had served with Qui-Gon for over a decade when they met the resourceful astromech droid R2-D2 while protecting Queen Amidala of Naboo from the greedy Neimoidian Trade Federation's droid forces. They were escorting Amidala to Coruscant when an emergency detour to the desert planet Tatooine introduced them to Anakin Skywalker, a nine-year-old boy who was exceptionally powerful with the Force.

It was also on Tatooine that Obi-Wan witnessed Qui-Gon duel a dark warrior with a tattooed visage and a red lightsaber. Although the Jedi Order had not encountered their greatest enemy, the Sith, in a millennium, Qui-Gon correctly identified his attacker as a Sith Lord.

Pursuing the two Jedi when they returned to Naboo, the Sith Lord mortally wounded Qui-Gon but was slain by Kenobi. Because Qui-Gon believed Anakin Skywalker would fulfill an ancient Jedi prophecy to bring balance to the Force, his last request was for Kenobi to train Anakin to become a Jedi.

In that same year the Sith revealed they were far from extinct, an innocuous Senator named Palpatine was elected Supreme Chancellor of the Galactic Senate.



"YOU HAVE MADE A
COMMITMENT TO THE JEDI
ORDER, A COMMITMENT
NOT EASILY BROKEN."

— OBI-WAN TO ANAKIN
EPISODE II - ATTACK OF THE CLONES





WE KNEW OF THE CLONES
FROM THE ANAKIN
TRIPLE DEBUT YEAR

OBI-WAN TO ANAKIN
EPISODE II: ATTACK OF THE CLONES

TRAINING ANAKIN

Kenobi did his best to teach Anakin Skywalker the ways of the Jedi, and Anakin tried hard to please his new Master, but both were often frustrated by what each perceived as the other's limitations. As powerful as Anakin was with the Force, he had difficulty controlling his emotions because his years on Tatooine had not left him a stranger to love, fear, pride, and anger. On more than one occasion, Anakin bitterly accused his Master of preventing him from fulfilling his potential. Kenobi was ill prepared for an apprentice who lacked the experience and discipline of other Padawans, and was surprised to find himself repeatedly echoing Qui-Gon's admonishments on being mindful. But despite their differences, he believed Anakin would become a great Jedi, and came to love his apprentice like a brother. ♡

SITH ENCOUNTERS

Obi-Wan Kenobi not only defeated the Sith Lord Darth Maul at Naboo, but also survived duels with Darth Tyrannus—the Sith alter ego of Count Dooku—and Darth Vader, whom he severely disabled on the volcanic planet Mustafar. In his final confrontation with Vader on the Death Star battle station, Kenobi allowed Vader to strike him down, sacrificing himself so that Luke Skywalker and his allies would live. Incredibly, Kenobi's spirit survived this encounter, thanks to his special training with Qui-Gon Jinn and Yoda.



"ANAKIN. MY ALLEGIANCE IS
TO THE REPUBLIC.
TO DEMOCRACY."

OBI-WAN TO ANAKIN
EPISODE III - REVENGE OF THE SITH



THE NEGOTIATOR

The war between the Republic and the Separatists almost immediately became known as the Clone Wars, which lasted three long, terrible years. Obi-Wan Kenobi served the Republic as a Jedi general, and led his clone troops into many battles against the Separatists and their subsequent reorganization as the Confederacy of Independent Systems. Kenobi's reputation for resolving disputes through diplomacy, and without ever drawing his lightsaber, earned him the moniker "The Negotiator," which also became the name of his flagship, a Venator-class Star Destroyer.

The clone CC-2224, better known as Clone Commander Cody, served as Kenobi's first officer in numerous campaigns. Cody's loyalty to the Republic was without question, and Kenobi came to regard the resourceful soldier as a trusted ally.

Kenobi had confrontations with Count Dooku and Dooku's disciple Asajj Ventress, the bounty hunter Durge, and the cybernetic General Grievous. He revisited Tatooine when he met with Jabba the Hutt to discuss terms of safe passage for Republic ships through Hutt sectors, but never imagined that Anakin Skywalker's homeworld would one day become his own home.

Far worse, he never anticipated that Anakin would betray and destroy the Jedi Order, and be transformed into the Dark Lord of the Sith, Darth Vader. By then, Anakin also had become a father.



BEN'S JOURNAL

At a Tatooine junk shop, Kenobi had obtained a leather-bound book with unmarked pages. He used the book as a journal of his life spent on Tatooine, and also for essays and instructions that he hoped might one day help potential Jedi, specifically Luke Skywalker. The book contained detailed instructions for constructing lightsabers, but deliberately omitted information about the true identity of Luke's father. Kenobi kept the book in a locked case in his hut's cellar, where Luke discovered it not long after his confrontation with Darth Vader in Cloud City. Years later, Luke shared the journal with others when he founded his Jedi Academy.

ONLY A
SITH LORD
DEALS IN
ABSOLUTES.
I WILL DO
WHAT I MUST

OWEN LARS TO ANAKIN
EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH

SECRET GUARDIAN

The Clone Wars ended with the Sith Lords Darth Sidious and his new apprentice Darth Vader in control of much of the galaxy, and the few surviving Jedi were forced into hiding. Before Master Yoda died in the swamp planet Dagobah, he assigned Kenobi to deliver Anakin's infant son, Luke, to Anakin's stepbrother Owen Lars on Tatooine. Kenobi would remain on Tatooine to watch over Luke, whose existence remained unknown to the Sith Lords.

Owen Lars and his wife Beru agreed to raise Luke on their moisture farm. Kenobi initially took shelter in a nearby abandoned hovel that was within walking distance to the Lars homestead so he could check on Luke daily. But despite his efforts at discretion, Kenobi's lurking presence increasingly rattled Owen, who soon asserted that such frequent parrots might draw unwanted attention, and do more to endanger than protect Luke. Because Owen's point was valid, Kenobi acquiesced and withdrew into the desert.

Seeking shelter elsewhere, he found an abandoned hut in Tatooine's Jundland Wastes. He continued to check on the Lars homestead occasionally, albeit with greater stealth, but his connection with the Force became his main means to monitor Luke from afar. 🌟

"I HAVEN'T GONE BY
THE NAME OF OBI-WAN
SINCE BEFORE
YOU WERE BORN."

OBI-WAN TO LUKE EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE



Kenobi's closest neighbors were the ruthless Tusken Raiders and the scavenging Jawas. Because of his apparently natural ability to survive alone in the desert, repel menacing creatures, and walk without fear across the most treacherous areas, he acquired the reputation of a wizard.

He befriended at least one Jawa clan by helping them with mechanical repairs, and in return they allowed him to ride in their sandcrawler when he needed to travel to the settlements of Bestine and Anchorhead, and the spaceport in Mos Eisley. Another Tatooine location, Ben's Mesa, gave him inspiration for his new first name.

Thirteen years would pass before Ben Kenobi met Luke face to face. Luke and a friend had ridden a pet ronto into the Jundland Wastes and gotten lost. When Kenobi found them, they were under attack by a krayt dragon. He subdued the dragon and delivered the boys to the Lars homestead, but Owen was less than pleased to see Kenobi, and told him to leave immediately.

Six years later, Kenobi came to Luke's rescue again after a Tusken Raider had subdued Luke in the Jundland Wastes. On that occasion, Luke was accompanied by a pair of droids, including R2-D2, who had a message for "Obi-Wan Kenobi."

Soon, Kenobi found himself leaving Tatooine with a new apprentice at his side.



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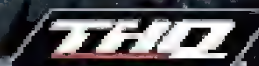


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WORDS: JONATHAN WILKINS



What was your first Star Wars experience?

Well, it was *Star Wars*, the first one, which, of course, is *A New Hope*. My mum took me to see it when I was five after I'd begged. When I got to the cinema, after about 20 minutes I was saying, "Please, I'm so bored, why did you take me here? I hate it!"

When did you become a Star Wars fan?

It wasn't until it was on TV that it really clicked. We recorded it from TV when I was about 10 or 11. I watched it with my brother James every day, and sometimes we watched it twice in one day, so it's embedded in my psyche.

Now it's my favorite film! It's so imaginative, and huge. Some people say that *The Empire Strikes Back* is the best film, but for me *Star Wars*, the first one, is the best; the original and the best!



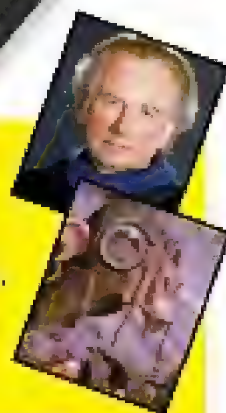
Do you have any Darth Maul toys?

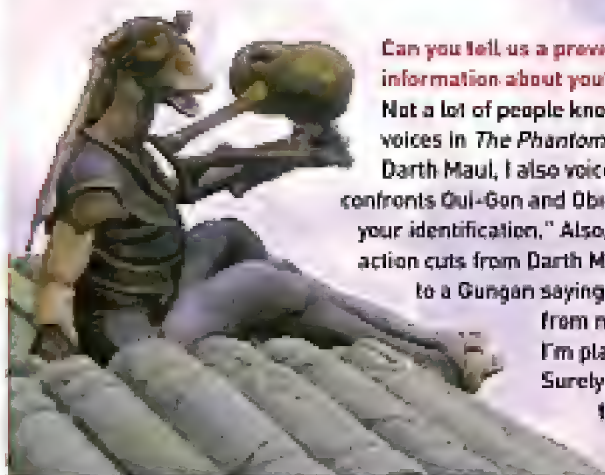
I've got one that doesn't have my voice on it! It has a sort of computer pretending to be my voice. It says, [in a computer sounding Darth Maul voice] "At last we will reveal ourselves to the Jedi. At last we will have revenge." That's quite a post-modern thing, to be impersonated by a computer speech synthesizer. It is strange.



What is your happiest memory about being in *The Phantom Menace*?

I love Ian McDiarmid, who I got to meet recently in a café. I went up to him and introduced myself. I said, "Look, we've actually worked together although we've never met!" He's a giant in acting, and his voice is just something else. He's got such command over his voice. I feel like I've stolen so many tricks and techniques from him. Also, my really good friend, Lewis MacLeod, did the voice for Sebulba, and I loved his character.



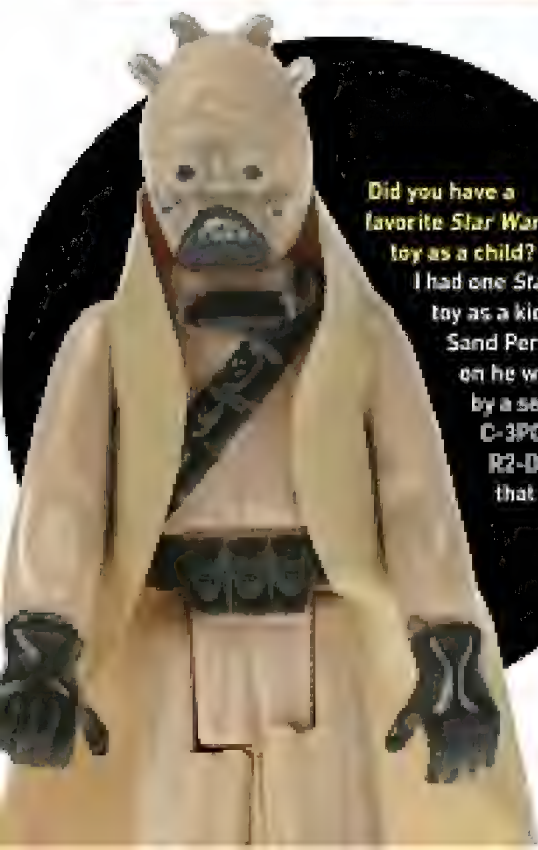
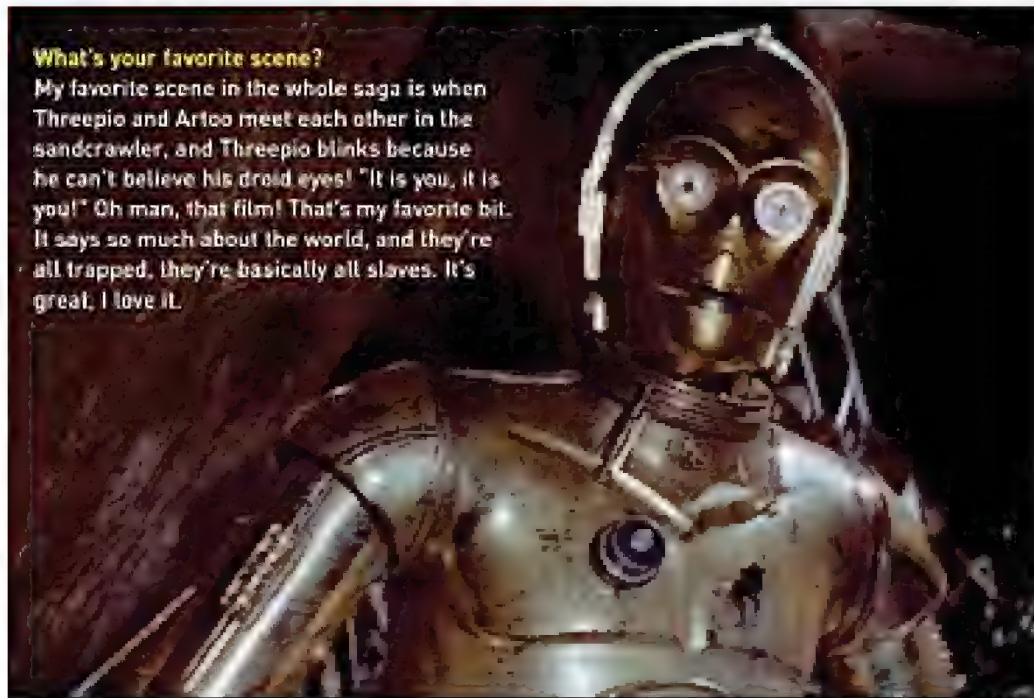


Can you tell us a previously unknown nugget of information about you?

Not a lot of people know that I did a few different voices in *The Phantom Menace*! Not only did I do Darth Maul, I also voiced the battle droid that confronts Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan and says, "Let me see your identification." Also, there's one scene where the action cuts from Darth Maul saying, "Yes, my master," to a Gungan saying, "They's a-coming!" That goes from me to me in the same film, and I'm playing two different characters! Surely that's the first and only time that's happened in *Star Wars*?

What's your favorite scene?

My favorite scene in the whole saga is when Threepio and Artoo meet each other in the sandcrawler, and Threepio blinks because he can't believe his droid eyes! "It is you, it is you!" Oh man, that film! That's my favorite bit. It says so much about the world, and they're all trapped, they're basically all slaves. It's great, I love it.



Did you have a favorite *Star Wars* toy as a child?

I had one *Star Wars* toy as a kid. I had a Sand Person. Later on he was joined by a second-hand C-3PO and R2-D2, and that was it!

What do you think gives *Star Wars* such longevity?

Part of the reason *Star Wars* is so great is the cast of characters. The action figures cemented that in a way. Take Hammerhead: He's an alien in the cantina for one shot in the movie, but he has his own action figure and identity. These minor characters from the film had their own life. Boba Fett is in the original trilogy for a few brief scenes, and yet he's got something about him that people love.



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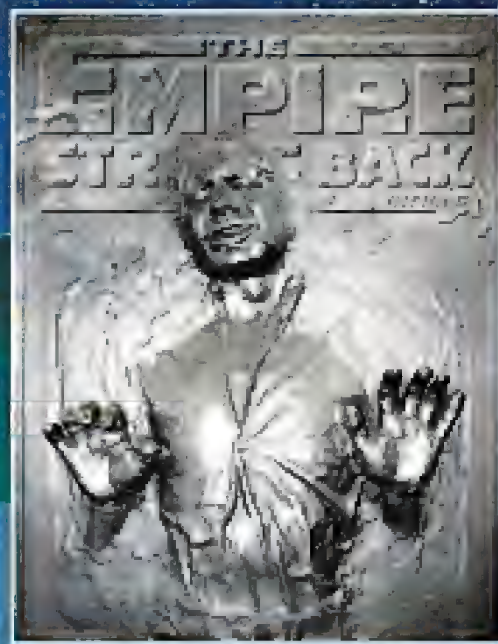
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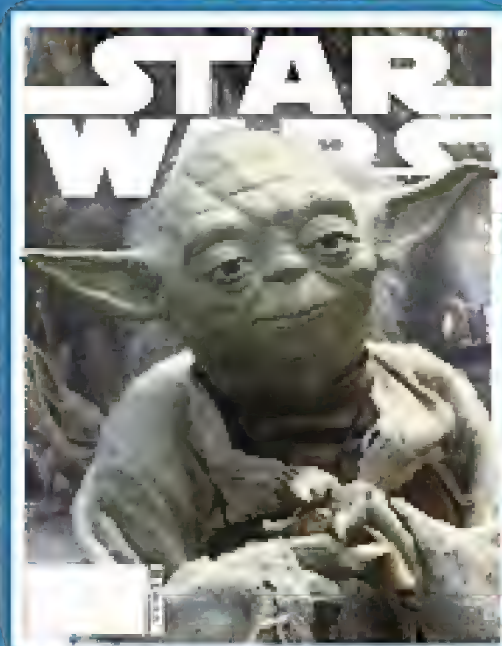
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HEAVYWEIGHT BELT AND
WHICH SHOULD STAY HOME.
WORDS: DAN WALLACE



THE TOUGHEST EVER CREATURES





10 TAUNTAUNS

A tauntaun wouldn't hurt a fly — though they do tend to spit when angry — and for this reason tauntauns rank the lowest on our creature list. That doesn't mean they aren't winners. Loyal and tireless, they act as the cowboys' horses in *The Empire Strikes Back* to carry Luke and Han across the ice plains of Hoth.

Too bad, then, that all those we meet wind up dead. Luke's tauntaun has its throat opened by a wampa. Han's perishes of exposure (guess that Rebel who said "Your tauntaun will freeze before you reach the first marker" knew what he was talking about!), and if you look close you'll spot a lifeless tauntaun being examined by a Too-Onebee medical droid on the floor of Echo Base.

This mystery corpse is a holdover from a deleted sequence showing a wampa attack on the Rebel stronghold. Tauntauns logically numbered among the victims, since they are the wampas' primary prey. Nighttime temperatures are also capable of killing tauntauns despite a type of antifreeze found in the animals' blood. When Han's tauntaun dropped dead, the smart smuggler chose to fillet the beast and use its body temperature to slow Luke's case of *hyper-terrestrial hypothermia*.

By the way, Han's complaint about tauntaun stink is a biological fact. Tauntauns secrete their waste in an oily goo released through their skin pores, making them smell like open sewers.

The name says it all — "aiwha" is a contraction of "air whale," and the beast is clearly a cetacean with wings. The idea behind this mash-up dates back to the making of *The Empire Strikes Back*, when artists sketched flying whales as conceptual mounts for Cloud City background characters. For a time it seemed like the aiwha might appear in 1999's *The Phantom Menace*, until the proposed Gungan air force was scratched from the movie's climactic battle. *Attack of the Clones* finally made room for the beasts. A short snippet shows an aiwha, with a Kaminoan rider in the saddle, breaking the surface of a churning ocean under a storm-gray sky.

What sort of biology would allow such a huge creature to become airborne? The in-universe explanation is that the aiwha possesses absorbent body tissues, allowing it to soak in seawater and shed its water weight as soon as it launches into the sky. The aiwha's mouth contains rows of baleen (a kind of 'teeth' composed of keratin, the same substance as hair) to filter microscopic organisms from Kamino's salty brine.

Teryl Whitlatch, author and illustrator of *The Wildlife of Star Wars*, used the *Phantom Menace* concept drawings to introduce the aiwhas in her book as a species native to Naboo. Whether the aiwhas of *Attack of the Clones* are from the same breeding stock is open to debate, though the Kaminoans can achieve almost anything through cloning.

STAR
WARS
CREATURE
LIST



8

SPACE
SLUG

Hands down, the space slug is the ugliest and strongest creature on this list. So why didn't it rank higher? Because it can barely move. Han, Leia, and Chewie park in its mouth, walk in its throat, and shoot its tongue, and still get away scot-free.

The slug's sluggishness shouldn't come as a surprise in light of its bulk and its home in cold vacuum. Space slugs are beings based on stony silicon instead of organic carbon, and reproduce by splitting themselves in two. They prefer to dwell in asteroid fields, pushing themselves off from one rock and drifting through zero-g to reach the next. By burrowing into asteroids, space slugs can leech nutrients from the surrounding one. The beasts also eat brilliant myriapods (which survive as parasites inside larger slug specimens) and are known to attack passing starships.

The comic *Knights of the Old Republic*—set 4,000 years before the *Star Wars* movies—recently revealed the secret history of space slugs and also dubbed them “exogorths.” Ambitious weapons merchants during the Knights era decided that animals capable of biting through durasteel and dividing by fission were essentially weapons of mass destruction. After genetically tweaking exogorths to increase their growth rate, they fitted the worms with hyperdrive engines and shipped them to galactic power players as potential shipyard-wreckers.

The space slug used during *Empire* filming wasn't nearly so threatening. The moment when it rises from its hole to snap at the fleeing *Millennium Falcon* was achieved with the humblest visual effect: hand puppetry.

7

BANTHAS



Banthas aren't much tougher than tauntauns, but judge your enemies by the company they keep. Because banthas and Tusken Raiders almost always travel together (in single file, of course, to hide their numbers), you definitely want to steer clear unless you want to find yourself on the wrong end of a Sand Person's gift stick.

Woolly herd animals, banthas are found all over the galaxy but most commonly on Tatooine. There, they roam the desert wastes in herds (you can spot a herd in the new footage added to the Special Edition of *Return of the Jedi*). Both males and females sport curling, segmented horns, and the long tongues of banthas are used to probe for groundwater or edible tubers beneath the sand.

In the realm of in-orbital pop culture, banthas have left a big footprint. A bedtime story, “The Little Lost Bantha Cub,” is referenced in the post-*Academy* novels, and a stuffed bantha toy is carried by Chewbacca's son Lumpo in the reference *Star Wars Holiday Special*. According to old roleplaying sourcebooks, the Dim-U cult on Tatooine reveres the bantha as an object of religious worship.

During the filming of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the bantha was portrayed by Mandy, a trained elephant from a California animal park. The filmmaker had only enough money to shoot up a huge elephant, the same animal used to stand in for Han Solo, and Mandy proved to be a real find. He was a real find.

6

ACKLAY, REEK, AND NEXU

We couldn't decide how to evaluate these *Attack of the Clones* monsters on their own, so we lumped them all into a single entry. Their debut in the Geonosis arena linked the three in the minds of fans, and they exhibit a certain rock-paper-scissors balance of strengths and weaknesses: the reek can crush the nexu, the nexu can gut the acklay, and the acklay can spear the reek.

The acklay is arguably the most memorable, sporting all the most unpleasant qualities of a lobster, a scorpion, and a crocodile. Native to the planet Vendaka, the acklay has spawned variant species across the galaxy including water-breathing mutants in Geonosis' shallow seas. A scene in which Obi-Wan threatens the monster with a spear is an intentional tribute to a similar exchange with a giant crab in Ray Harryhausen's *Mysterious Island*.

The reek is a big *Star Wars* bull, right down to the ring in its nose and the way it paws the earth before charging. Found on Ylesia, the Codian Moon, and elsewhere, the reek possesses a brown-leathery hide that turns red when the animal is fed a meat-heavy diet. Although Anakin calmed the arena reek and even used it as a ride, the beast proved no match for a single shot from Jango Fett's blaster pistol.

Vicious but fragile, the nexu is a tiger-like jungle predator with a face only its mother could love. Found mostly in the dense forests of Cholganna, nexu are often the target of big-game hunters who kill them for sport or capture them for sale on the galactic black market as watch-beasts. The nexu in *Attack of the Clones* gave evidence of the species' delicate bone structure when it injured itself after falling from a pillar and fell down dead when broadsided by the reek.



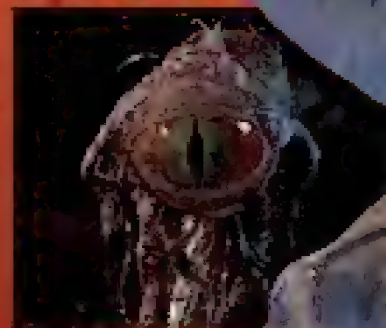
5 DIANOGAS

The dianogas ranks high on the creepiness scale, and not just because it very nearly poisoned the minds of the kid by proving that Luke Skywalker can't breathe underwater. Cribbed from nightmares, its hideous appearance includes a rubbery, warty body; squelchy suction-bristles; and a hateful eye that looms above the water line the perimeter of a German U-boat.

Seen only in partial view during *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the dianogas's true appearance remained a mystery at first. An early Kenner toy molded it in green plastic with a fat torso and two stubby "limbs." Later artwork envisioned the creature as a gelatinous cephalopod with a central, tooth-lined mouth and seven waxy arms.

Originating on the muddy planet Yavin, dianogas spread across the galaxy in their microscopic larval forms by hitching rides in the waste systems of star liners and cargo ships. Although not inherently dangerous, dianogas attack when threatened or starving, and are difficult to spot since their bodies change color to match the hue of their last meal (and even become transparent if it's been a long time between feedings). It's a safe bet that the stormtroopers aboard the Death Star had no desire to venture into the sewage chambers to root out the lurking "garbage squids."

One little-noticed bit of irony — when Luke destroys the Death Star at the end of the film, he also kills the dianoga. How's that for karmic payback?




4 WAMPAS

Combine face-slashing claws, bone-munching fangs, and the appearance and mystique of the Abominable Snowman and you have the fearsome wampa.

In the wampa's first appearance it pops up from nowhere to K.O. Luke Skywalker and deliver a death blow to his tauntaun. Behind the scenes, however, the beast seemed far less menacing. For this sequence its head was a small hand puppet capable only of opening and closing its mouth, while its arm was a furry prop attached to a pole. Attempts to build a full-size wampa costume caused so many headaches — actor Des Webb, his height augmented by the costume's built-in stilts, kept falling over — that *Empire* director Irvin Kershner scrapped a planned segment of a horde of the beasts erupting into Echo Base. It wasn't until the 1997 Special Edition that all of the wampa's body appeared on-screen at the same time, in new scenes with a suit built and worn by ILM employee Howie Weed.

Wampas are popular video-game villains, appearing in *Super Empire Strikes Back* and *Star Wars Trilogy Arcade*. Games such as *Shadows of the Empire* and *Mysteries of the Sith* didn't feel the need to confine such a fun enemy to Hoth, plopping down (re-colored) wampas in rocky and marshy settings and giving rise to the in-universe variants known as cliff wampas and swamp wampas. None of these appearances, however, have answered the most vexing mystery about the wampa — how do they freeze their prey's feet to the ceiling?



3

SANDO AQUA MONSTERS

The sando aqua monster can eat just about any other creature in the *Star Wars* movies, provided its competition somehow finds its way underwater. In fact, the sando aqua monster devoured the opee sea killer and the colo claw fish just before press time, preventing either of those ocean beasts from making our Top 10 list.

At 200 meters in length, the sando aqua monster is six times the length of a blue whale. Background lore reveals the sando to be a mammalian-based water breather originally adapted for life on land. Its panther-like forelimbs and sinuous neck give it the appearance of a lithe predator, yet it remains so scarce most inhabitants of Naboo consider the creature to be a myth akin to our own Loch Ness Monster. While a carcass from such a beast would be difficult evidence to ignore, the animals live in the depths and apparently die down there too.

The Gungans are well aware of the hazards of the deep, and Jar Jar Binks was quick to warn Qui-Gon Jinn and Obi-Wan Kenobi about traveling through the planet's core. The sando's hungry debut during the movie's submarine chase even prompts a bit of philosophizing from the older Jedi: "There's always a bigger fish."

2

SARLACCS

The sarlacc earns its spot near the top of the list for sheer digestive creepiness. C-3PO couldn't have said it better: "In its belly you will find a new definition of pain and suffering as you are slowly digested over a thousand years."

Threepio wasn't kidding. According to *Star Wars* lore, the sarlacc embeds its victims inside its primary stomach or one of several secondary stomachs, where they are kept alive through a nutrient drip while the sarlacc's digestive acids consume skin and muscle tissue. By all accounts, the ordeal is excruciatingly painful.

The sarlacc is a remnant of the real-world antlion, which lies in wait at the bottom of tiny dimples of sand waiting for insects to tumble into its mouth. But the sarlacc isn't necessarily a desert denizen. It reproduces by releasing sarlacc spores that can be carried from world to world, often thriving in wet, swampy biospheres.

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of the sarlacc is its ability to absorb the memories of its victims, becoming semi-intelligent in the process. Boba Fett is one potential meal who fought his way free before he could become a member of the sarlacc's madable collection.

The sarlacc is a popular hazard in *Star Wars* video games, appearing everywhere from *Battlefront* to *Super Bombad Racing*. In the films, the sarlacc underwent a makeover with the Special Edition of *Return of the Jedi*, when a CGI beaklike tongue provided enhanced enemy-chomping menace.

TOP
TEN



1 RANCORS

"Oh no! The rancor!" For once, C-3PO had good reason to be terrified. The rancor tops our list for toughness, possessing an unbeatable combo of mobility, bad temper, face-melting ugliness, and a reach that would put any professional boxer to shame.

The rancor's introduction is perfectly petrifying, as its flexing talons and toothy, bat-faced maw emerge from beneath an iron portcullis. It's Luke Skywalker's job to slay this dragon — but the rancor then raises the threat level by grabbing a Gamorrean guard and munching him in three delighted bites.

Luke wins by dropping the gate on the rancor's skull. This causes the beast to emit a puppy-dog death whine, as its handler breaks down in tears. The notion that rancors could make terrifyingly good pets gained currency with the publication of "A Boy and his Monster: The Rancor Keeper's Tale" in *Tales From the Mos Eisley Cantina*, as well as with *The Courtship of Princess Leia*'s planetful of trained rancor mounts under the command of Force-using witches.

In the *Star Wars* galaxy, rancors are found on enough worlds that no one quite remembers where they originally evolved. This fact has been a boon to video game designers, who love to include rancors as level bosses. Think you're ready to fight a rancor? You can try, in games such as *Mysteries of the Sith*, *Knights of the Old Republic*, and *The Force Unleashed*. We still think Chewbacca could take a rancor in a one-on-one fight, though! ☘

EXPANDED UNIVERSE 25 YEARS OF JEDI

UNEARTHLY CREATURES

"George felt that a lot of the creatures in *Star Wars* looked like something out of an Egyptian hieroglyphic panel. We made a conscious effort on *Return of the Jedi* to make things look more alien. We were concerned that they be less animalistic and more unearthly."

—Phil Tippett, Creature Design Supervisor



OVERLOOKED CREATURE: THE WORRT

Found lurking in the rocks outside of Jabba's palace on Tatooine is this variety of wary roadside scavenger. The dim-witted creature has a lightning-fast tongue, which it uses to catch smaller prey.

Native to Tatooine, worrts are blindingly stupid and will attack anything that appears remotely edible: metal, poisonous plants, and large rocks have been found in the guts of dead worrts. Though they have been known to pester human-sized targets, they generally avoid prey larger than themselves. Worrt can be domesticated as pest-catchers, but their stupidity makes them difficult to train. Jabba the Hutt was believed to have maintained several worrts as pets, which explains the unusual concentration of the creatures near his palace.

For the movie, the worrt was a puppet, like many of the creatures seen at Jabba's palace in *Return of the Jedi*. Its production nickname was simply "road creature."

JEDI AWARDS

At the 56th Academy Awards in 1984, Richard Edlund, Dennis Muren, Ken Ralston, and Phil Tippett received the Special Achievement Award for Visual Effects. Norman Reynolds, Fred Hole, James L. Schoppe, and Michael Ford were nominated for Best Art Direction/Set Decoration. Ben Burtt received a nomination for Best Sound Effects Editing; John Williams received the nomination for Best Music, Original Score. Burtt, Gary Summers, Randy Thoni, and Tony Dawe all received the nominations for Best Sound. At the 1984 BAFTA Awards, Edlund, Muren, Ralston, and Kit West won for Best Special Visual Effects. Tippett and Stuart Freeborn were also nominated for Best Make-up. Reynolds received a nomination for Best Production Design/Art Direction. Burtt, Dawe, and Summers also received nominations for Best Sound. Williams was also nominated Best Album of Original Score Written for a Motion Picture or Television Special. The film also won for Best Dramatic Presentation at the 1984 Hugo Awards. ☘

AGREE? DISAGREE? >> Now that you've seen our rankings, hint your say via email to starwars@nerd.com. Did we pick the right creatures and get them in the right order? Set the record straight and have your say!

STAR WARS™



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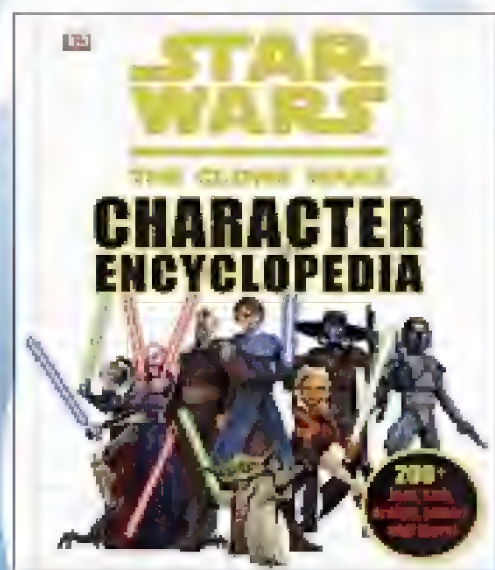
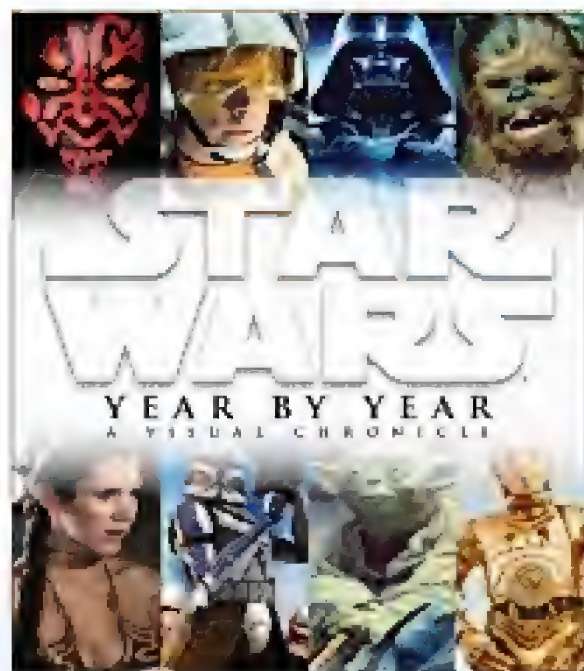
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STAR RETRO WARS

SHE'S RICH, POWERFUL AND ON THE RUN FROM THE EMPIRE. FIND OUT WHY COLLECTORS WANT TO GET THEIR HANDS ON PRINCESS LEIA! WORDS & PICTURES: GUS LÓPEZ

TREASURES FIT FOR A PRINCESS!

WHAT A DOLL!

For many years, the feisty, cinnamon bun-haired Princess Leia was the role model for young girls growing up within *Star Wars* fandom, and naturally this popularity translated to Leia-themed merchandise aimed at girls. In 1978, Kenner released the inevitable, much-anticipated Princess Leia doll (aka large action figure) that sold throughout the world. This doll featured Leia in her original white outfit from *A New Hope*, though instead of a blaster she came armed with a hairbrush and booklet demonstrating various hairstyles for her highness to wear. Instead of shooting away at stormtroopers with laser blasts, was Leia supposed to release static electricity from her brush? Kenner had plans to release additional outfits for Princess Leia, including an "Arctic" outfit, flight suit, and poncho leisure suit. For *The Empire Strikes Back*, Kenner designed a new outfit with updated packaging, showing Princess Leia's Bespin gown, and finally added the much-needed blaster. Unfortunately, Kenner canceled the large size figure line before any additional Leia outfits went to market (only prototypes exist), and a Leia doll with other outfits would not see the light of day until Hasbro resumed the large-size action figures in 1995.



RETRO continues next page

RETRO COLLECTING continues



DRESSED TO REBEL!

One of the earliest licensees was Ben Cooper, a company producing Halloween costumes in the United States. Ben Cooper was the leading manufacturer of kids' costumes during the 1970s and created a series of *Star Wars* costumes for *A New Hope* that continued and expanded through *Return of the Jedi*. The Princess Leia costume was one of the first in the series and came with a plastic character mask featuring the legendary hairstyle, plus the added effect of heavy 1970s eye shadow. The multicolored blouse costume has a drawing of Leia herself, simulated belt, and the Style A poster images of the main characters to remind Leia who her friends were!

A FORCE IN FASHION!

One of the more elaborate Leia toys was the fashion set made for the Disney theme parks. The snap-together small-size Leia figures in this set can be constructed from a range of Leia hairstyles and outfits from the original trilogy and lets Leia accessorize with such items as a travel bag, award medal, hand mirror, pillow, purse, and picture frame of Han. There's even a Wicket sidekick to keep Leia company in the forest.



LITTLE LEIA!

Hot Toys' Chubby Series 2 included a set of small-scale Princess Leia nesting dolls. The three dolls came with the full ensemble of Leia's outfit from *Return of the Jedi*: Leia Slave, Leia Endor, and Leia as Boushh. This set is loosely based on the traditional Russian nesting dolls with one doll fitting inside another.



"NO REWARD IS WORTH THIS!"

Like many princesses before her, Leia would get minted on *Star Wars* collectible coins over the years. Kenner released silver-toned Leia coins for its short-lived Power of the Force toy promotion including different coins for Leia in her original outfit, Endor uniform, and Boushh disguise. The dies for the Kenner Endor Leia coin would get reused years later for Hasbro's Millennium Mint series in a gold-toned version of the coin. Nestlé created a Leia coin as a cereal premium in the mid 1990s for a promotion in Spain, and a Princess Leia coin was produced as a premium for the California Lottery in 2005.



LIFE-SIZED LEIA!

One of the highlights of Carrie Fisher's new one-woman stage show is a slideshow of some of the more unusual Princess Leia items that have been produced with her likeness over the years. The show features a surprise visit by Gentle Giant's awesome life-sized animated Leia statue. This fiberglass statue is based on the small-scale Gentle Giant animated statues that are popular with collectors. Posed with attitude and blaster set to stun, this is a fitting tribute to Alderaan's finest!



SPUD WARS!

There was no escape for the Princess from Hasbro's Star Wars Mr. Potato Heads, and Leia Organa would be dubbed "Princess Tater" for this particular series. This toy was introduced as a Star Tours exclusive at Disneyland and came with a blaster accessory instead of a hairbrush or potato peeler.

"UNDERPANTS FIT FOR A PRINCESS"

Thirty years ago, Underoos were all the rage on the kids' underwear scene, and for *The Empire Strikes Back*, Princess Leia would get her own set of Underoos based on her Hoth outfit, which was then followed with a new set for *Return of the Jedi* based on Leia's Endor outfit. The Leia Underoos were featured in at least one memorable television commercial of the period, featuring the immortal line, "I feel like Princess Leia in my Underoos." Like most of the items in the Star Wars Underoos line, sealed sets of the Leia *Return of the Jedi* Underoos are more in demand and scarcer in supply than the earlier *Empire* series. 🍌



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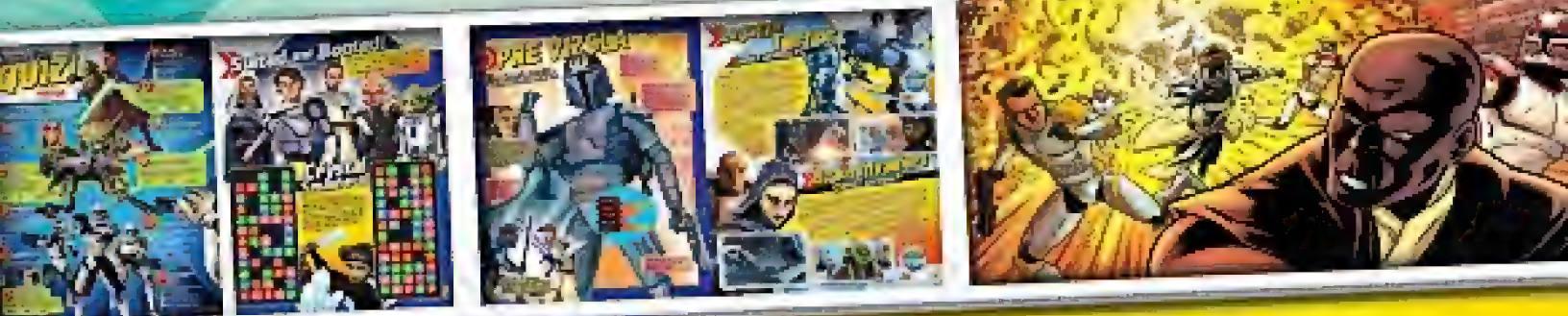


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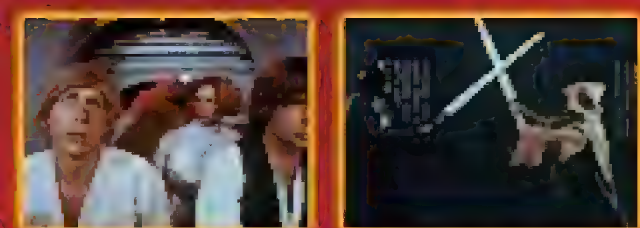
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ROBOT

STAR WARS INSIDER CAUGHT UP WITH ROBOT CHICKEN CREATORS AND PRODUCERS SETH GREEN AND MATT SENREICH FOR AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ON THE HIGHS AND HILARITY OF PLAYING IN A SOMEWHAT-SKEWED STAR WARS UNIVERSE. **WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE**



WARS!

Arriving on DVD July 21, Adult Swim's much-anticipated *Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II* builds on the tremendous success of the first *Star Wars*-themed *Robot Chicken* special with its trademark blend of stop-motion animation and hysterically twisted satire. Winner of three Annie Awards including Best Animated Television Production, the *Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II* DVD includes both the original broadcast version and extended version of the special, along with more than 90 minutes of bonus features.

www.adultswim.com/robotchicken

Matt Senech
photo by Miles
Marshall for
ShadowMachine



Seth Green
courtesy of
NBCUniversal
Press TV



Star Wars Insider: Were there any story ideas in *Episode II* that didn't make it into the first special, or was it all new material?

Seth Green: It was all-new material. We had the mandate to try something different. We wanted to do more storytelling and expand on some of these character interpretations that we have such fun with.

Matt Senech: We ended up taking characters like the Emperor or the bounty hunters and following them through a series of events.

Seth: I'd always been fascinated by that tableau of bounty hunters aboard the *Executor* [in *The Empire Strikes Back*] who were hired to capture Han Solo. Who were these guys? How did they get that job? What was the interview process?

Matt: We wanted to get into their personalities and give them our spin. We cut it from the televised special, but you'll see on the DVD a sketch with 4-LOM and Zuckuss that shows where they come from, how they interact with each other, and the type of people they are.

Seth: I actually love IG-88, and we did some stuff with Bossk that's exclusive to the DVD that I think will create a whole new fan base for him. I love our Bossk, and would really love to tell more stories about him.

Were there any ideas that were rejected by Lucasfilm or yourselves?

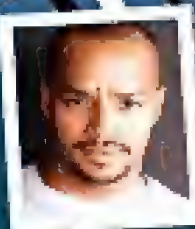
Seth: Lucasfilm was super positive. The only sketch we were nervous about was the one where Anakin kills the younglings, but they gave us a thumbs up.

Matt: We actually reject maybe 98 percent of stuff offered up by our writers. We have a DVD extra that shows all of the writers' pitches for the day and whether or not they got in.

How do you cast the voice actors?

Seth: Our casting is really instinctive. If I think I've got a good take on it, I'll pitch it [for myself]. If somebody else may be funnier, then we'll go after them.

Matt: We like to add in the original *Star Wars* actors. Like Billy Dee Williams and Ahmed Best, who won an Annie for his performance as Jar Jar Binks [in *Robot Chicken*]. Carrie Fisher's interaction with Seth was one of my favorite parts of the whole special. And it's all on film in "Behind the Scenes."



DONALD FAISON

ACTOR AND SCRIBES STAR DONALD FAISON, THE VOICE OF GARY THE STORMTROOPER IN "TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER TO WORK DAY" AND BUDDING STOP-MOTION ANIMATOR, SPEAKS ABOUT WORKING IN THE *STAR WARS* PUPPET-VERSE.

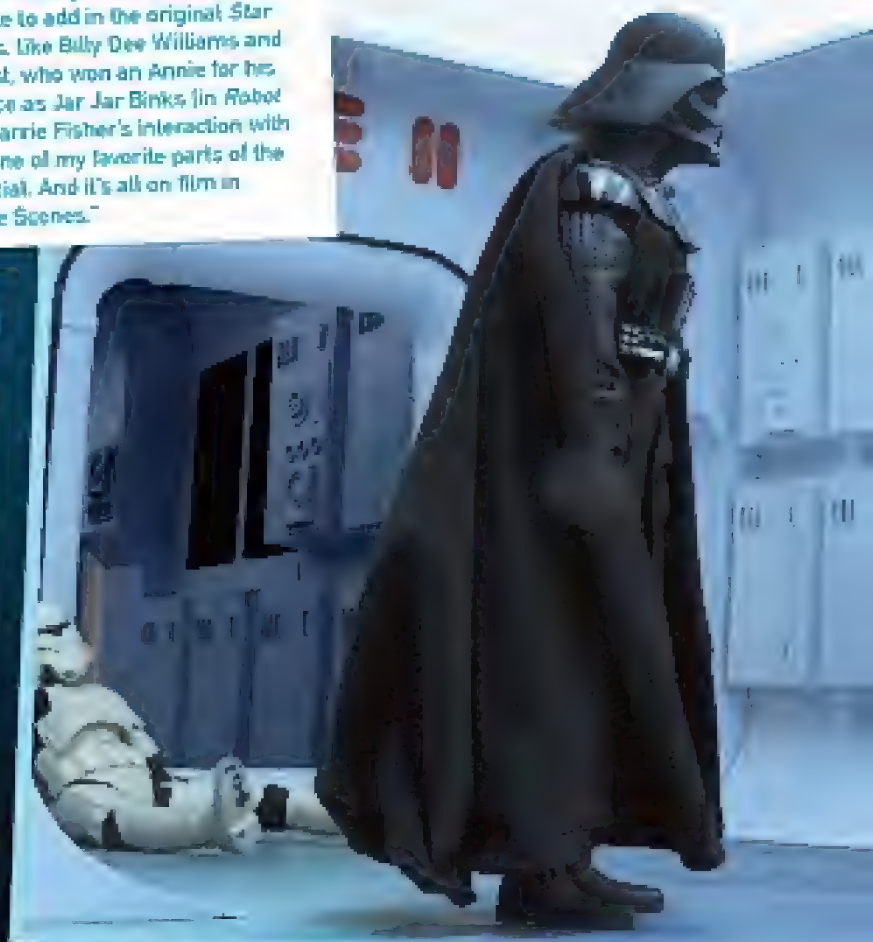
How did you initially get involved with *Star Wars Robot Chicken*?
Seth [Green]: was one of the first people I met when I moved to L.A., and I asked if I could come down and intern. He said yeah, and when I came in a couple of weeks later, they were working on a *Star Wars Robot Chicken* episode, and on a big fan I stuck around for a few days and helped out.

What did you do?

I helped make puppets for the special, although I'm far from a great puppet maker! I worked on one of the Emperor's guards.

Did you get to work with one of your childhood heroes, Billy Dee Williams?

I did the commentary and sat in with Billy Dee, and I asked him what his favorite movie was, and it was *Empire*, which is also mine. I had met him before when he did an episode of *Scrubs*, and I called him Lando on the show.



"Whenever Harrison Ford wants to do it, he's more than welcome to come in!"

Are any *Star Wars* actors on your wish list for the future?

Matt: I like how Keith Ferguson does Han Solo, but I'll put the open offer out. Whenever Harrison Ford wants to do it, he's more than welcome to come on in!

Which *Star Wars* character is the most fun to write?

Seth: We love playing around with the Emperor! The dynamic between the Emperor and Vader and Luke is almost like three generations of a family.

Matt: And Boba Fett. Breckin [Meyer] just goes crazy and adds a personality to this character that's unrivaled. And much of the dialogue he comes up with is ad-libbed.

Seth: We know we can put Breckin in the booth with a few lines and he's gonna give us all sorts of gold.

Which *Star Wars* character is the most difficult to write for?

Matt: The one we haven't figured out for *Robot Chicken*'s style is probably C-3PO.

Is there a *Star Wars* character's voice that's the most difficult to mimic?

Matt: Tom Kane did Yoda singing, which is really, really hard! Doing the voice for Yoda isn't so bad for him, but trying to sing in that voice is very difficult. That's included in one of the additional scenes on the DVD.

During the recording process, which character's dialogue cracks you up the most?

Seth: It's when Abe Benrubi does Vader, because [our] Vader is such a sad sack—he never succeeds in anything. His career is a series of almosts, and Abe just brings this awful resignation to it that's so funny. And when Breckin does Ackbar, it splits me every time! No matter what he says, it's always funny.

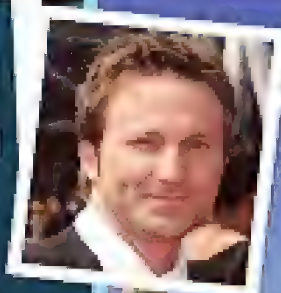
Matt: And watching Billy Dee Williams curse and get so into the part. That made me laugh probably more than anything, because it was so unexpected.

Seth: For the record, let me say just how desperately and deeply I love Billy Dee! He's a magical performer, and I do not use the term lightly. He comes in and does things that everybody is impressed by. He walks into our studio and everyone wants to hug him.

Matt: We've hired him for our new show *Titan Maximum* because of his performance on *Robot Chicken*.



BRECKIN MEYER



A *ROBOT CHICKEN* VETERAN, ACTOR BRECKIN MEYER VOICES FAN FAVORITE BOBA FETT AND THE SCENE-STEALING ADMIRAL ACKBAR IN *ROBOT CHICKEN: STAR WARS EPISODE II*.

You wrote the very first *Star Wars Robot Chicken* skit—"The Emperor's Phone Call"—that really got it all started. What's your inspiration for writing the Emperor?

He's this grand masked dark Emperor, and the best thing is to put him into a really pedestrian situation like the phone call. He's busy being a Monday-morning quarterback when this phone call comes in, and it's the equivalent of somebody calling to say that your car got towed because you parked in the wrong spot. The more pedestrian we could make his dialogue the funnier it became—like him deciding what he's gonna have for lunch when the call, waiting clicks over. He's just the boss of a really big corporation, and every now and then he realizes his foot soldiers are morons. That's taxing on the Emperor—I feel bad for him!

What accounts for the runaway success of Admiral Ackbar in *Robot Chicken* cameos?

I'm just trying to do the best impression of the voice from the movie, and the actual voice is just funny. When we started doing it, we had a sketch originally called "Where Are They Now?" and Ackbar was working at Costco as a greeter, and the only reason we liked it was because he would just repeat over and over again in his amphibian voice, "Welcome to Costco. Welcome to Costco." I think it got done in animation, but it didn't make it to the show. A lot of times we do stuff that tickles us in the room and we hope the audience enjoys it, even if they don't, it still makes us laugh!

What other Ackbar skits were cut?

We had one that was never made. It pushed the boundaries of good taste. It was Ackbar wandering through his day and basically responding with lines that rhymed with "It's a trap!" like trying to get out of a leak. "It's a flap!" Or having a stripper walk up to him. "On my lap!" And a doctor came in. "It's the clap!" Things like that. We have such a good time doing this show, especially when we do the *Star Wars* thing. We all hold the films sacred like a farmer would his crops.

What's it like voicing more lines for Boba Fett than were recorded for the *Star Wars* films themselves?

I'm very proud of that! Who doesn't think Boba's the coolest guy on the planet? He's got to have an attitude, because he knows he's the coolest. You look at all the other bounty hunters, like Dengar with the head wrap and IG-88 looking like a Jamba Juice machine, and then there's Boba Fett looking like the coolest guy on the planet! So we just assumed he'd have the greatest ego of all and be a little crazy because he spends a lot of time on *Slave I* by himself.

What was it like working with Billy Dee Williams?

Nobody can mimic Billy Dee's crazy, awesome, sexy voice! I was driving near to him just the other day, and I like that I can yell out my window, "Hey, Billy Dee, what's up?" Now granted, he still has no idea who I am, but I'm confident yelling at him.

What's included in the 15 minutes of additional footage on the DVD?

Seth: We have an entire episode's worth of brand new *Robot Chicken* stuff!

Matt: We had sketches written that we'd done storyboards and animations for, but we ended up having to cut it for broadcast time. We overwrote because we were so excited doing the second special, and we had to pick the best stuff for on air. For the DVD, we had a budget where we could make these extras.

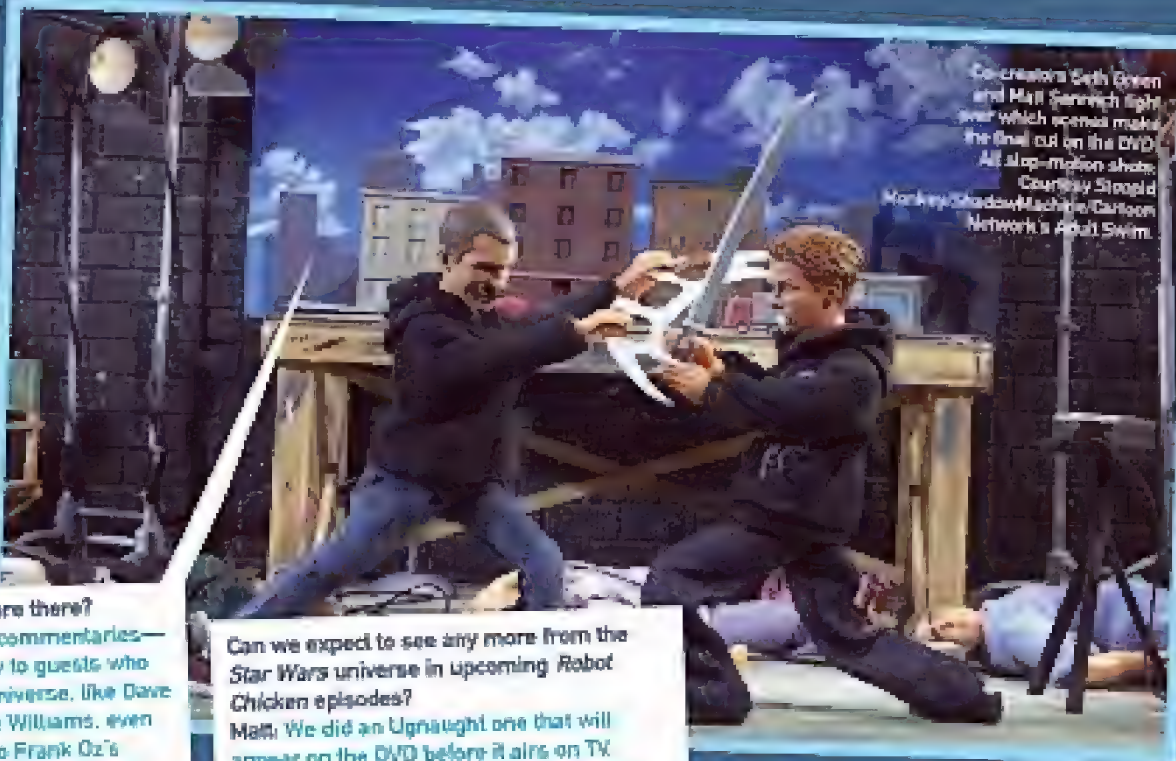
What can fans expect from the 90 minutes of bonus features?

Seth: Every single thing you'd want to know about how this got made! Behind the scenes, time-lapse footage, trailers....

Matt: We have a Making of *Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II* and a behind the scenes (feature) of our cast and crew screening up at Skywalker Ranch. We had Jon Berg (a stop-motion animator on the classic trilogy) come by, and we have an Easter egg of him. We were inducted into the 501st Legion, and that experience is documented on the DVD.

"Tom Kane did Yoda singing, which is really, really hard! Doing the voice for Yoda isn't so bad for him, but trying to sing in that voice is very difficult."





Co-creators Seth Green and Matt Spenning light over which scenes make the final cut on the DVD. All stop-motion shots. Courtesy Stoopid Monkey/ShadowMachine/Cartoon Network's Adult Swim.

How many commentaries are there?

Matt: We have six different commentaries—ranging from cast and crew to guests who are part of the *Star Wars* universe, like Dave Filoni, Matt Wood, Billy Dee Williams, even Frank Oz. It's fun to listen to Frank Oz's stories about *Star Wars*, and every once in a while he'll comment on something we've done. It was quite amazing to sit with him!

How did Frank Oz become involved in the commentaries?

Seth: I'd given Frank an award from The Creative Coalition and my introduction was effortless because I've studied him and loved him my entire life. We just kind of became casually friendly after that. He comes from a studio [background with Jim Henson] that's exactly like our studio: just a bunch of people that like working together making fun stuff. So I asked him to do commentary and he said yes. Every single person in our studio tried to not flip out on him!

Matt: If you want to hear a really nerdy conversation, the commentary may geek out even the geeks!

Can we expect to see any more from the *Star Wars* universe in upcoming *Robot Chicken* episodes?

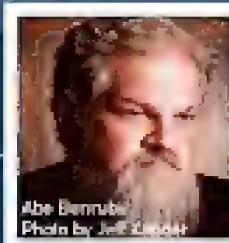
Matt: We did an Ugnaught one that will appear on the DVD before it airs on TV. **Seth:** We shot it as part of a regular show, but we wound up using it on the special because it's so cool.

Matt: As we get to the next season of *Robot Chicken*, it's very likely we'll have another *Star Wars* sketch in there somewhere. We don't start writing until the end of the year. We're still finishing up season four right now, so we haven't even started thinking about season five. Season four starts airing the last ten episodes on Sunday, July 25. And of course, if Adult Swim and Lucasfilm want another special, we won't say no! ☺

"Our Vader is such a sad sack—he never succeeds in anything! His career is a series of almosTs."

ABE BENRUBI

ACTOR ABE BENRUBI LENDS HIS BASSO VOICE TO *STAR WARS ROBOT CHICKEN* AND GETS TO LIVE OUT HIS CHILDHOOD DREAM OF BEING DARTH VADER.



Abe Benrubi
Photo by Jeff Labadie



What's it like voicing the central bad guy in the saga—Darth Vader?

The coolest thing about it is the way they wrote Vader. He's very serious and can't ever quite make all of his powers or schemes work correctly. He's a frustrated villain, and I love that aspect.

How did you get the part?

I must have said at some point that it was one of my childhood fantasies to play Darth Vader, and Seth said, "Oh, it's not too late," and that's how it came about. They just knew my love of all things *Star Wars*.

What's your inspiration for your take on Vader?

I try to bring a little of Hayden Christensen to the James Earl Jones voice. The whiny, sort of defeated, apologetic. On the drive down to do the recording, I just run lines that I can remember off the top of my head, and that sort of triggers other lines and it's easy to find [the voice] once you're in the booth having fun.

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THE MAN IN THE GOLDEN MASK

NO ONE HAS BEEN MORE SURPRISED
BY THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS POPULARITY
OF STAR WARS THAN C-3PO HIMSELF,
ACTOR ANTHONY DANIELS

WORDS: DAVE MENDONCA







For Anthony Daniels, being a part of the worldwide Star Wars phenomenon almost didn't happen. Back in the 1970s, he enjoyed a successful career performing on stage, TV and radio. One day his agent informed him that an American director named George Lucas wanted to have a meeting regarding a robot role in a science fiction movie to be filmed in England. Feeling that playing a robot was beneath him, he turned down the director's request. He was finally persuaded to change his mind and met with George Lucas. It was actually a concept painting by Ralph McQuarrie that sparked Daniels' interest in the character as he formed a connection with the humble droid that endures to this day.

"I just wanted to act. I never thought about being in a movie until Star Wars came along," Daniels says. "And it was such a horrible surprise to me [laughs]! I nearly wasn't in *The Empire Strikes Back* because making Star Wars was not a heap of laughs. In the end, sense prevailed and I did the second film."

From the start, playing C-3PO wasn't easy for Daniels. The day after he agreed to play the character, he was covered in plaster in order to make a mold of his body for the droid's outer shell. Six months later, as filming began, Daniels found the golden suit uncomfortable and restrictive. Besides the physical challenges with Threepio, Daniels endured

other obstacles. "Imagine always having to explain what you do for a living, or being denied entry to an event or convention because you don't have a pass to get in, even though you are, in fact, the celebrity guest speaker," he laughs.

Even though playing C-3PO wasn't always fun, the actor, who was born in Salisbury, England, believes the positive far outweighs the negative. "As an actor, it gives you great joy to realize you give people pleasure because of the job you do. I have been allowed this gift by George Lucas to talk to maybe three generations of people who have enjoyed Threepio over the years."

THREPIO GOES GLOBAL!

Daniels is the only actor to appear in all six Star Wars films. But the exposure didn't stop there. He tap-danced through an episode of *The Muppet Show*, promoted measles and polio vaccines, boogied with Donny and Marie Osmond, presented an Academy Award, and befriended Big Bird on *Sesame Street*. He also lent his distinctive voice to Disney's Star Tours ride and encouraged kids—and R2-D2—not to smoke. He conducted the London Symphony and the Boston Pops Orchestras and still found time to voice Threepio in the *Droids* cartoon series. The timid protocol droid has provided Daniels with a wealth of opportunity and good fortune, and his latest endeavor as Threepio came with the animated television series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*.

"I'm just constantly amazed by the number of things I have done over the years because of C-3PO," says Daniels. "Of course, I love doing *The Clone Wars*

DID YOU KNOW?

When *Star Tours* opened a bilingual version at Disneyland Paris, Daniels re-recorded C-3PO's dialogue in French.



"I LOVE DOING *THE CLONE WARS*, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE TO WEAR THE SUIT!"

DID YOU KNOW?

C-3PO is the first character to speak in *A New Hope* ("Did you hear that? They've shut down the main reactor. We'll be destroyed for sure!") and the last character to speak in *Revenge of the Sith* ("What? Oh, no, no, no!")

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NAKED?



Anthony Daniels, who plays C-3PO, has been in the Star Wars franchise since its debut in the original *Star Wars*. He's also been in the *Star Wars* franchise since its debut in the original *Star Wars*. He's also been in the *Star Wars* franchise since its debut in the original *Star Wars*.



Anthony Daniels, who plays C-3PO, has been in the Star Wars franchise since its debut in the original *Star Wars*. He's also been in the *Star Wars* franchise since its debut in the original *Star Wars*.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the Italian version of the original trilogy, C-3PO's name is changed to D-3PO. In the French version of the original trilogy, he was renamed Z-6PO.



"SHUT HIM UP OR SHUT HIM DOWN!"

Classic Threepio one-liners!

"We're doomed!"

—The golden droid insists to Artoo in *A New Hope*

"I feel so helpless."

—Threepio frets over Padmé's plight, *Revenge of the Sith*

"We seem to be made to suffer. It's our lot in life."

—Threepio knows his place, *A New Hope*

"Sir, the possibility of successfully navigating an asteroid field is approximately three thousand, seven hundred and twenty to one!"

—C-3PO informs Han Solo, to which the captain replies in *The Empire Strikes Back*, "Never tell me the odds!"

because I don't have to wear the suit! I am in a studio in London with one engineer and there's a team in San Francisco at the other end of the line. I'm mean enough to make them get up to the studio at 8 a.m., while it's 4 p.m. here, so I'm having afternoon tea. We talk over the airwaves, and we have great fun."

Many actors famous for one role often worry about being typecast. "At my age, I don't care!" he laughs. "Why should it bother me? Threepio has been very kind to me all these years."

KID ENCOUNTERS

C-3PO has amused and delighted generations of children. When they see his golden form and hear his distinctive voice they make an instant connection, but what about when

Daniels performs his famous alter-ego's voice out of costume?

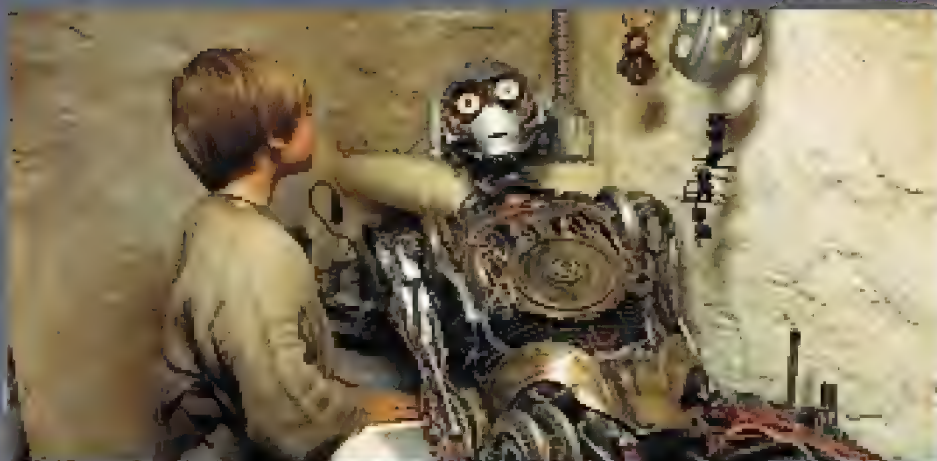
"You see the kid's eyes sort of compute my face and think, 'He doesn't look like Threepio', but he is Threepio', then they smile," Daniels reflects. "That's nice. It makes me feel warm. It makes me feel that some of the imitations of playing the character were worthwhile."

For over 30 years, Daniels has been accustomed to Threepio hogging the limelight. After all, it's the droid's shiny exterior that has appeared in the films, cartoon series, lunch boxes, T-shirts and so on. According to Daniels, it's a unique situation. "One of the strangest things about playing this character is that he is known throughout the world, and I am not," says Daniels. "There are times that's terrific. In fact, most

times, it's terrific. You don't actually want to be recognized all the time. After all these years, I get recognized often enough that it's very pleasant and joyful and rather sweet, but I also have my privacy."

DROID SCIENCE!

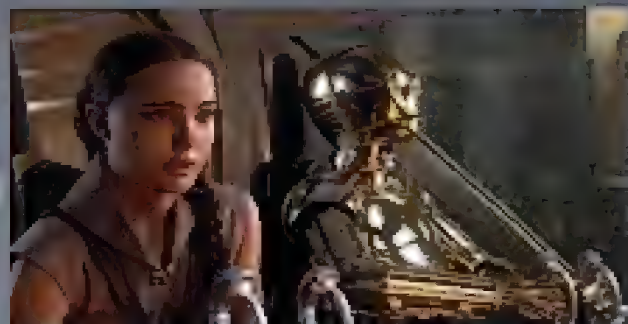
Daniels now puts a human face to C-3PO by hosting a traveling exhibition called *Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination*. The exhibit, which was created by the Museum of Science in Boston, features costumes and props used in the *Star Wars* movies, but focuses primarily on the real-world science associated with the fantasy of the movies. It's one of the many professional engagements



DID YOU KNOW?

Daniels contributed the foreword to the collected scripts of the *Return of the Jedi* radio drama. Daniels' other *Star Wars*-related writings include the Wonder Column for *Star Wars Insider* magazine and a comic book adventure for C-3PO and R2-D2 entitled *The Protocol Offensive*, published by Dark Horse Comics.

THE MAN IN THE
**GOLDEN
MASK**



"THREEPIO HAS
BEEN VERY
KIND TO ME
ALL THESE
YEARS."





keeping Daniels busy these days. Threepio has definitely provided him great rewards, but was there ever a time when Daniels wanted to say goodbye to this beloved character? "Some years ago now, I thought to myself that maybe I should just stop doing *Star Wars* stuff. Then, reality took over. I thought well, 'I get paid for doing it,' but also, I'm very fond of C-3PO. I wouldn't like to leave him to wander the galaxy on his own. That was probably about 10 years ago or more now. I'm really, really glad that common sense took over."

As to the future, Daniels is convinced there is more to come. "I'm totally, 100 per cent astounded [at the success of *Star Wars*], and I think to be fair, so is George Lucas. They keep coming up with different things, but that's because everybody wants to see more *Star Wars*!" 🍌

A DROID'S JOURNEY

Anthony Daniels played C-3PO in:

Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope (1977)

The Star Wars Holiday Special (1978)

Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back (1980)

NPR *Star Wars* radio dramatizations (1981, 1983, 1996)

Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi (1983)

Star Wars: Droids [voice] (1985)

Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace [voice] (1999)

Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones (2002)

Star Wars: Clone Wars [voice, animated micro-series] (2003)

Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith (2005)

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (2008)

He has also made guest appearances in many television shows including:
The Muppet Show
The Donny and Marie Show
Sesame Street



INTERROGATION DROID!

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STAR WARS INSIDER CATCHES UP WITH LUKE SKYWALKER AKA MARK HAMILL TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE FORCE! WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE



Above: Oops! Give the man a hand! Right: Mark Hamill and friend ponder the mysteries of the Force!

Yoda was always giving Luke Skywalker advice. What advice would Luke have given in return?
Use moisturizer!

What do you think was harder for Luke to carry on his back: Yoda, or the knowledge that he smooched his sister twice?
Yoda, because I had other people with their arms up my back manipulating him with cables!

Don't you think it was a bit creepy that Obi-Wan could still speak to Luke after he died? What if Luke had been on a hot date and needed some privacy? And why didn't Ben chime in when Leia planted that kiss on him on Hoth?
It was like having your parents looking over your shoulder... forever! And it was a chaste kiss. It was coming from the right place—no tongues!

Since Leia was clearly off limits, who do you think Luke should have set his sights on? Mon Mothma or Sy Snootles?
Well, actually, Snow Bunny Padmé from the *Clone Wars* micro-series—why didn't George come up with more of these luscious babes back then?

When Luke torched Vader's funeral pyre, what did smoked Sith Lord smell like?
It was surprisingly pleasant and brought me back to toasted marshmallows at a campfire.

As Luke was the savior of the Jedi, maybe running around the galaxy using his real name wasn't the best idea. What alias would you have given him?
Well, let's see... "Jed Eye," but maybe that's too much of a giveaway. The fans will probably be able to offer better suggestions!



NAME: MARK HAMILL
ALIAS: LUKE SKYWALKER

FIRST APPEARANCE:
STAR WARS: EPISODE IV A NEW HOPE

If Mark Hamill had a real working lightsaber, do you think he'd have accidentally cut off a hand long before Vader severed Luke's?
Mark has a much higher probability of being klutzy enough to do something like that! Luke seems to finally get it together over the course of those three pictures.

If Darth Vader had cut off your right hand, how would you have reacted?
I'd probably be thinking, "Thank God it was the right hand because I use my left hand for writing!"

Who do you think was better at doing household chores like laundry, dish washing, and vacuuming, R2-D2 or C-3PO?
Absolutely Artoo because Threepio was bound to give you lip about it!

If Mark Hamill did a one-man show about his life, what would it be called?
"Showbiz is My Life... Sometimes." I love the contrast between complete conviction (if that's what you want) and an escape clause if you want it to go away. 🐾



The Clone Wars



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